



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,851	08/26/2003	William Burton Hall	KCOS122355	3859

7590 05/27/2005

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM PLLC
816 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

EXAMINER

KAVANAUGH, JOHN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3728

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

RECEIVED
JUN 08 2005
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/648,851

Applicant(s)

HALL, WILLIAM BURTON

Examiner

Ted Kavanaugh

Art Unit

3728

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,6 and 18-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12-22-2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 3,6 and 18-27 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on May 5, 2005.
2. Applicant's election of species I (figures 1-3) in the reply filed on May 5, 2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1,2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6467193 (Okajima).

Okajima teaches a footwear liner as claimed including a tightener (16) engaging the heel portion, a lock comprising a front tensioning system (lace 18 and knot which is

Art Unit: 3728

the same lock shown in the first embodiment of applicant's invention), and a lateral tensioning element (51).

5. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6467193 (Okajima).

Okajima teaches an article of footwear as claimed including a sole (12), a control element (62), a channeling element (the unnumbered element extending around the lower heel portion of the footwear), a draw is a rear lace (46) having a first end secured to the control element (62) and a lock comprising a front tensioning system (lace 18 and knot which is the same lock shown in the first embodiment of applicant's invention), and an lateral tensioning element (51).

6. Claims 1,2,4,5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5992057 (Monti).

Monti teaches a footwear liner (upper 112) as claimed including a tightener having a medial draw and a lateral draw crossing at the upper end (straps 122 crossing in the upper end of heel) engaging the heel portion, a lock comprising a front tensioning system (lace 130 and knot which is the same lock shown in the first embodiment of applicant's invention), and an lateral tensioning element (136). The upper 112 is inherently a footwear liner inasmuch as it has all of the structure as claimed and since the shroud 402 covers it.

Art Unit: 3728

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 11-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111, including:

-“The reply must present arguments pointing out the *specific* distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references.”

--“A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section.”


-Moreover, “The prompt development of a clear issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims. Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06” MPEP 714.02. The “disclosure” includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Other useful information can be obtained at the PTO Home Page at www.uspto.gov.

Art Unit: 3728

In order to avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Center at (703) 872-9306 **(FORMAL FAXES ONLY)**. Please identify Examiner Ted Kavanaugh of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet.

Any inquiry concerning the MERITS of this examination from the examiner should be directed to Ted Kavanaugh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4556. The examiner can normally be reached from 6AM - 4PM.


Ted Kavanaugh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

TK
May 25, 2005



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0851-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)			Complete if Known		
			Application Number	10/648,851	
			Filing Date	August 26, 2003	
			First Named Inventor	Hall	
			Art Unit		
			Examiner Name		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	KSNO-1-1002

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
JK	1	US- 4,620,378	11/4/1988	Santor	
	2	US- 4,811,503	3/14/1989	Iwama	
	3	US- 4,937,953	7/3/1990	Walkhoff	
	4	US- 4,949,479	8/21/1990	Ottieri	
	5	US- 4,955,149	9/11/1990	Ottieri	
	6	US- 4,984,375	1/15/1991	Bonnet	
	7	US- 5,937,542	8/17/1999	Bourdeau	
	8	US- 6,082,026	7/4/2000	Sand et al.	
	9	US- 6,138,384	10/31/2000	Messmer	
	10	US- 6,467,193	10/22/2002	Okalima	
V		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³	-Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature	Jal/Kr	Date Considered	5/25/05
-----------------------	--------	--------------------	---------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 18 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 10/648,851	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination HALL, WILLIAM BURTON	
	Examiner Ted Kavanaugh	Art Unit 3728	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-5,992,057 A	11-1999	Monti, Steven A.	36/89
	B	US-2003/0154627 A1	08-2003	Hirayama, Shuichi	36/10
	C	US-6,073,370 A	06-2000	Okajima, Shinpei	36/50.1
	D	US-5,319,869 A	06-1994	McDonald et al.	36/114
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-1,845,031	02-1932	ARTHUR GILBERT V	36/140
	H	US-4,670,998	06-1987	Pasternak, Stephen M.	36/114
	I	US-4,972,613	11-1990	Loveder, Christopher J.	36/105
	J	US-1,863,592	06-1932	DAWES ROBERT T	36/50.1
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Organization **IC3700 RANDOLPH**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. BOX 1450

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

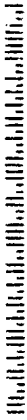
IF UNDELIVERABLE RETURN IN TEN DAYS

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

BLAC816* 981042029 1304 08 06/02/05
FORWARD TIME EXP RTN TO SEND
BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM
701 5TH AVE STE 4800
SEATTLE WA 98104-7009

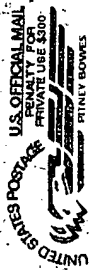
RETURN TO SENDER



RECEIVED

JUN 08 2005

TECHNOLOGY CENTER F3703



02 1A \$00.830
0004204034 MAY 27 2005
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 22314